

*March in Bound Volume*

# The NEWSLETTER

*Echoes from Bryan Hill*

Vol. V

APRIL, 1940

No. 7

## BRYAN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IS HELD

As a tribute to the Christian statesman in whose honor Bryan University was established, a special service was held on March 19, on the 80th anniversary of William Jennings Bryan's birth.

The newly-organized brass ensemble presented a concert at the opening of the service, concluding with the hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers." Marching to the time of the hymn, two young men entered, bearing the Christian flag and the American flag. These beautiful silk flags were presented to the school with a written message from the President of the class of 1939, James Darrell, and a verbal expression from the editor of the COMMONER, Mrs. Lewis Llewellyn. In his response Mr. Rudd emphasized the ideals of each flag and pointed out the Christian's responsibility, first to Christ, then to country.

Other selections by the ensemble included "Marche Romaine," "Andante Grazioso," "Taps," and "Coronation March."

As Rev. B. R. Opper, missionary to India, told of his work among the peoples of that land, he dressed himself in the simple native costume and sang in the Telugu language. With a stirring incident of God's power to transform the life of an old Indian, Rev. Opper challenged the young people to carry the message of God's love and grace to a hungry people who have few missionaries.

In the main address of the morning, Dr. Harris H. Gregg confirmed the missionary cause with the story of the conversion of an Indian prince who became a great power for God. From the story of Queen Esther, Dr. Gregg drew numerous comparisons to show God's hand working for the protection and edification of the believers today, as He did for His chosen people for whom Esther interceded.

## DR. WALTER L. WILSON ADDRESSES STUDENTS

The noted Bible teacher and author, Dr. Walter Lewis Wilson, was the guest speaker at an afternoon chapel session attended by faculty, students, and friends from Dayton.

Speaking from Psalm 63, Dr. Wilson showed how David rejoiced in God's care, even though he was enduring hardship at the hand of Saul. As David said, "O God, thou art my God," he expressed complete trust in the living, personal God Christians have today. "If you have a living God, you expect Him to do something, and he does it," stated Dr. Wilson as he related an incident of God's miraculous power in an ordinary event of life. The concluding words were those of encouragement to the Christian to sing and rejoice as did David, though sorely oppressed by the enemy.

## SPRING HOUSECLEANING AT BRYAN

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness," quoted Connie Penick in Chapel as she named the various committees and each one's section of the campus to clean. Surely in a school which puts "God above all," we should also strive to keep in good condition all that God has given us.

The entire student body, the faculty, and the staff put aside lessons for two days and raked leaves, hauled ashes, and uncovered hidden grass and flowers.

A fitting climax was the huge bonfire, Thursday night, March 21, when the tired workers gathered in a circle around the fire and sang choruses and testified to His grace and joy. Shared with the entire group were many valuable lessons learned in the two days' work. Refreshments of ice cream, candy, marshmallows, and apples were furnished by President and Mrs. Rudd, after which the group dispersed, wishing each other a cheery but tired good-night.

## CHAPEL IS PAINTED AND DECORATED

Thanks to the combined efforts of certain staff members and students, the University chapel is now the most presentable room in the administration building. No longer variegated shades of red, its tile walls are now coated with washable, cream kalsomine, making the room not only more finished in appearance but probably 70 per cent lighter, and certainly greatly improved.

The staining of the woodwork, window casings, doors, and frames has added a contrasting oak, which sets off to advantage the newly-covered walls.

Probably the most valuable of all improvements is the platform, extending all the way across the front of the room and being some eighteen or twenty feet in width. The navy blue drapes provide an excellent background for speakers and at the same time serve to improve the acoustics of the room.

Speakers and listeners will enjoy a common appreciation of the work done, which adds dignity and refinement to the chapel.

## LAUREL FALLS

Forty-seven of the Bryan family took advantage of vacation between quarters and hiked approximately ten miles to see Laurel Falls.

This natural wonder, where the water falls 125 feet to crash onto the rocks below, is located on one side of a huge gorge, sixteen hundred feet across. After making its first great leap, it tumbles over rocks several hundred feet to the valley.

Many were the squeals of delight as the group walked on slippery rocks behind the falls and then discovered the only way to reach the top of the gorge was to climb a tree and step off at the fourth or fifth limb.

The hikers, led by Dean Ryther, returned to school in the light of the moon.



## THE NEWSETTE

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APRIL, 1940

—God Above All—

## BUILDING AGAIN

When the Lord graciously provides a student body of such numbers that the dormitories are crowded with four in each room and provides also a staff which must be satisfied with almost equally limited conveniences, it would seem entirely within His will that steps be taken to enlarge the physical equipment of the University. Granting that this be a true sign of His favor, should we not, daily seeing the need for such progress, again take up the hammer and the saw, the barrow and the trowel, and bend our backs to the task of further additions to the present dormitories? Should we not bend also our knees and burden our petitions with prayers to our Father that the expenses might be met without delay and that some gift might be sent of sufficient size to assure all beyond fear or doubt that it is, indeed, His will that this forward step be taken?

The present space for classroom use is inadequate, both the chapel and the dining hall being used for teaching. Rooms are needed for special courses, such as piano and voice—rooms which will at least in a measure retain the tones within their own four walls and not permit them to re-echo throughout the entire building, somewhat to the disturbance of other workers and students.

Additional space is needed for the satisfactory housing of the 30,000-volume library and for the complete protection of the books from the elements of nature. A visit to the library on almost any week night would convince even the most casual observer that additional space and tables are necessary if full opportunity for study is to be had.

But most of all—dormitory space! Unless additional rooms are built this

## P. S. O. B. STUDENTS VISIT

A blessing to the Bryan University family were the visit and testimonies of Mr. Paul Wilson, brother to Leona, attending Bryan, and his friends, Mr. Willard Mayes and Mr. John Toroni. During their stay at the University they were given many opportunities for "preaching Christ" and did so with conviction and ardor. Gospel music by Mr. Wilson on the guitar and harmonica was a portion of the special chapel service held by the group.

Most unusual, perhaps, was the lovely testimony in music of Mr. Toroni, whose violin numbers exhibited well-developed talent.

All three of these young men are students at the Philadelphia School of the Bible, where they prepare for the Lord's work in whatever field He may lead them to.

## BASKETBALL 1939-1940

Basketball activities at Bryan were officially closed March 9, when the Scarlet met the Gold for the third and last game of the season.

Competition has been very keen, and although the Scarlets won two of the three games, their total score was only ten points more than that of the Gold.

Since spring has arrived, thoughts of the students turn to softball and tennis, and interesting games are expected.

## VACATIONISTS

Several students enjoyed the opportunity to spend a few days at home or visiting friends during the interval between the second and third quarters. The vacationists were Ruth Dawson, Eltha Wright, Manford Cain, Clarence Blackburn, Donald Dickie, Wilbert Rahiser, Robert Thompson, and Mitchell West.

summer, it seems very likely that worthy young men and women must be refused admission to the University. These young people are often unable to attend other more expensive institutions and will, therefore, be uncared for unless their opportunity be available here. Would God have them to come, surely He will provide for their care.

Christians are urged to make this building need a definite burden of prayer. Give as the Lord leads, for in giving there is blessing. But above all, pray earnestly and without ceasing. Our God answers prayer!

## CAMERA CLUB HOLDS CONTEST

Regulations for the photograph contest held under the auspices of the Bryan University Camera Club have just been published and are as follows:

1. Pictures may be offered in any or all of three classifications: People, Scenery, Close-ups.

2. All pictures must have been taken during the current session by the contestant who submits them, not more than three snaps being submitted in any classification by any contestant.

3. Two winners will be chosen for each classification, enlargements of the winning photographs to be displayed in Dayton and then given as prizes.

4. The contest will close May 10th, all prints submitted becoming the property of the Camera Club.

The slides and lectures obtained from the Eastman Kodak Company and presented at the monthly club meetings are proving a source of help, interest, and inspiration. It is to be hoped that dark room facilities will soon be available for developing and printing.

## CHAPEL PROGRAMS

An impressive devotional service was held by the Freshmen in chapel recently, Lola Goehring playing "In the Garden" softly to open the program. The Scripture reading was given by Laura Belle Eastep, and a baritone solo by Solon Hoyt. Closing the program worshipfully, Gertrude Allen and Mitchell West sang "In the Shelter of His Love."

The Junior class, represented by Edward Paul, led the audience in Studio X, in a late program, to witness several radio programs which were being broadcast. Everyone was surprised to learn that there was a huge plate glass, invisible, between the outer and inner studios (the chapel and the stage). Foreign news broadcasts were to be given, but were all interrupted by bombing. "Uncle Don," Daniel Hirschy, gave his talk for "little" children in our school, reminding them to wash their teeth and comb their hair. "Miss Pennyfeather" Smith tried to give a recipe for making a wonderful cake, but the contents of the pan caught fire, which stopped the broadcast. The whole audience was pleased with the efficiency demonstration in Studio X.

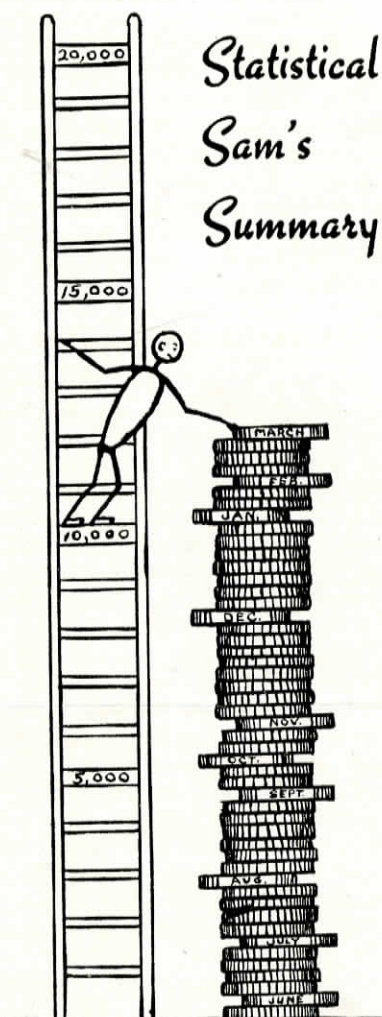
Bryan University



## R. I. HUMBERD VISITS

The father of Jesse Humbert, a member of the freshman class, Rev. R. I. Humbert, of Martinsburg, Pennsylvania, brought to the University a most unusual program of colored slides and Bible messages. His pictures, beautifully colored, illustrated many of the great Bible episodes and truths, helping greatly to fix in the listeners' minds the point being discussed and to make vitally realistic portions of the Bible never before so well appreciated.

Brother Humbert knows the Lord, is an interesting speaker, and gives a message in spoken and written word and through slides that is used of the Lord to bring blessing to many.



In the above illustration each ladder rung represents \$1,000 of income from gifts, each coin representing \$250. Each month's gifts are shown, to the nearest \$250.

The Newsette

## Toliver Writes of Chinese Life

China Inland Mission  
Pengshan, West Szechwan,  
China

Dear Editor:

How would you like to attend a Chinese funeral? Last week the four of us China Island Mission newcomers, Floyd Larsen, Bill Picton, John Lockhart, and I, attended our first one. An old lady named Foo, a church member, had died, and, with the other Christians, we were invited to the funeral. Early in the morning, about sun-rise, our two teachers, Mr. Soong and Mr. Tsen, came by the mission compound, and together we wound our way between the rice fields to the home, a mile beyond the West Gate.

Ducking our heads to get under the low-hanging eaves of the thatched roof, we passed the stall where the water buffalo, excited more than those ungainly beasts usually become, was going around in circles, and then into the central courtyard of the house. As is usual in Chinese farmsteads, on the four sides of this enclosure were grouped sleeping and eating quarters for the family, the "barn", grain mill, and even the hog pen. Against the walls, under the eaves, lay the single-handle buffalo plow, the hand-operated winnowing machine, stacks of rice-straw, chicken coops, the family fishing baskets, and other articles of Chinese farm life.

As we came into the courtyard, the old mother-in-law was working at her spinning wheel, and the children were having great fun pulling at each other's long-tailed white turbans, which they all wore as a sign of mourning. In China white, not black, is the symbol of mourning. The coolies who had come to carry the coffin were laughing and joking as they twisted strands of bark together to make ropes for their carrying poles.

The corpse lay in a room to the right in the usual ponderous wooden coffin. The candle burning before it had a heathenish smack about it, though there might have been a legitimate reason for its being there, the recesses of the windowless room still being shrouded in early morning darkness.

About fifteen Christians were present for the short service, which was similar to funeral services back home, with singing, reading, prayer, and a short message. During the course of the service, life went on as usual in the compound—preparing food, making rope, and so on—evidence of the indifference of the family as a whole to things Christian.

After the service the funeral feast was served—fat pork, long strings made of pea flour, pickled beans, cabbage, fungus (which they call "wood ears"), with lots of red pepper as seasoning and bowl upon bowl of steaming rice. All this for breakfast, mind you! As we ate, the children came around to inspect the white-faced people with the queer clothes, and at intervals the family dogs brushed past our legs looking for scraps of food.

The feast was quite expensive for the poor family, but, according to Chinese custom, the guests are expected to "pay back" by suitable funeral gifts, most common of which are long scrolls with appropriate characters.

In the lull following the meal, the men present whiled away the time by inspecting an ox-drawn mill for grinding rice, which was in the room adjacent to that in which the corpse lay.

Next in the ceremonies came the reading of a book containing the history of the deceased. The reading was done in a loud sing-song by one of the older men, while the other rela-

*Continued on Page 4*



Gift Receipts, June 1, '39—Feb. 29 . . \$11,270.49

Gift Receipts during March . . . . . \$ 1,088.15

Total Gift Receipts to March 31, 1940 \$12,358.64

Of course I did show some improvement this month, but I'm becoming discouraged about ever getting to the top. It's going to take a great deal of hard work to make it by June. Will you help?

*Sam*

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## TOLIVER WRITES

*Continued from Page 3*

tives, some dressed entirely in white and others with only the white turbans, were kneeling facing the coffin, the older mourners having the places of honor nearest to it. At the conclusion of the reading they bowed three times in unison towards the corpse.

Then the heavy wood lid was sealed in place, and the coffin carried outside. There it was put into the usual framework, tied securely, and the white curtains lowered on all sides. All of us who had been invited to the funeral were given paper flowers, also white, which were tied on the left arm to identify us as mourners. While these things were going on, the children were outside shooting firecrackers.

Preceded by the trumpeters, drummers, and cymbalars, who are always on hand for a Chinese wedding or funeral (at a price, of course!), we set out between the rice fields, the eight coolies carrying the coffin bringing up the rear. It is no honor to be a pall-bearer in China!

After the procession arrived at the big path leading to the West Gate, two broad strips of white cloth each about forty yards long, were attached to the front of the bier. These we held as we walked—men on one side, and women and children on the other, with the chief mourners between the two strips at the front.

When we arrived at the West Gate, the "musicians" struck up in earnest, making way for the procession through the dense market-day crowd. Formerly, when seeing such processions, I had wondered if all the blaring, banging, and clanging were not merely for show, but on seeing the crowd which blocked the street ahead of us, it became evident that the "music" had, as the Chinese say, a "use-place." At first it was a bit embarrassing (but not like it would have been a year ago, on our first arrival in China), but I kept my eyes on the heels of the man in front—by necessity!—and did not think much of the questioning gaze of the people along the streets.

We walked down West Street to the Cross Roads, then up North Street to North Gate and thence to the river bank, where the coffin was placed aboard a boat and taken to the

other side for burial at the old home of the deceased.

In a heathen funeral, a rooster rides on the coffin to the grave in order to ward off evil spirits, and his beak is used as a pen to write lucky characters on the coffin. A character which I have seen on coffins is "Fu"—"Happiness"! Other heathen customs, too numerous to mention, clearly distinguish the pagan funeral from the Christian.

These things are of the China of yesterday. The China of tomorrow is typified by the local Middle School (high school) and the Normal School, which moved here from Chengtu to escape the bombings. One afternoon recently we went to the Normal School to attend a field day program. There, in the shadow of old temple buildings which for scores of years had known nothing but clay idols, candles, and incense, but which now have been transformed into classrooms, offices, and libraries, we watched the neatly-uniformed student, and shot-put.

At sunset the national air was being sung by a group of little tots as the flag of China was being lowered in the primary school playground. As they sang, all stood stiffly at attention. All the Chinese within earshot, from the well-dressed young city visitor to the coolie working in the fields, stood with bowed heads until the song was finished and the flag rolled up for the night.

A great respect for Generalissimo Chiang marks the Chinese student of today. In one of the weekly meetings for Middle School boys, which our

Chinese teachers held in our home, Mr. Tsen spoke of the Christian faith of the Generalissimo. As soon as his name was mentioned, every boy in the room—some forty in all—immediately rose to his feet.

Things in China are changing rapidly. No matter what course the war may take, the next generation will see a different China, a new China. With age-old customs and ways of living being supplanted by the new, the question faces us: Will the China of tomorrow be a Christian nation, or will it be marked by the materialism and godlessness of the other two powers of north Asia? This is a question which demands the attention of thinking people throughout the world and the prayers of all those who are Christians.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Toliver

## W. H. REDMAN

As Rev. W. H. Redman, a worker among the Jewish people, gave a plea for more concern on the part of Christian people about the Jews, he suggested two important factors to consider in dealing with the Jews.

Since the Jew appreciates honesty and frankness, it is best, declared Rev. Redman, to tell him immediately that you want to tell him about the Lord Jesus Christ. It is also necessary, he said, to convince him that you know more about the Bible than he does, and to be able to prove that the Bible is the Word of God.

## Builders and Supporters of Bryan

*—that we stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.—Philippians 1:27.*

Please enroll me as one of the Builders and Supporters of Bryan University in providing a Godly education for young people.

As a "Builder and Supporter of Bryan" I will, the Lord helping me, contribute to the budget:

- (1) \$..... monthly during the balance of the fiscal year ending May 31, 1940.
- (2) \$..... on or before May 31, 1940.
- (3) \$..... cash enclosed herewith.

Name.....

Date ..... Address.....

(This is not to be counted as a subscription, but as a membership in the Builders and Supporters of Bryan.)

*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

—II Tim. 2:2.